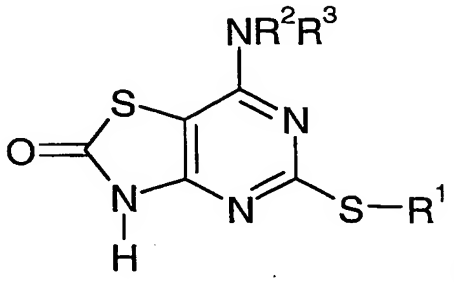
CLAIMS

1. A method for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof:



(I)

in which

R^1 represents a C_3-C_7 carbocyclic, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl or C_2-C_6 alkynyl group, each of the groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-COOR^7$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SR^{10}$, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$ or an aryl or heteroaryl group, both of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-COOR^7$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SR^{10}$, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$, C_1-C_6 alkyl or trifluoromethyl groups;

R^2 and R^3 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a C_3-C_7 carbocyclic, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl or C_2-C_6 alkynyl group, the latter four groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from:

(a) halogen atoms, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-COOR^7$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SR^{10}$, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$;

(b) a 3-8 membered ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, S, NR^8 and itself optionally substituted by C_1-C_3-alkyl or halogen; or

(c) an aryl group or heteroaryl group each of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, $-OR^4$, $-NR^5R^6$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, $-NR^8SO_2R^9$, C_1-C_6 alkyl and trifluoromethyl groups;

R^4 represents hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl or a phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{11}$ and $-NR^{12}R^{13}$

R^5 and R^6 independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl or phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{14}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SONR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$

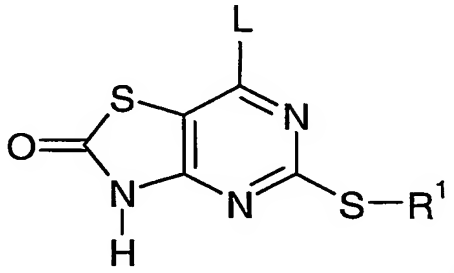
or

R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring system optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from oxygen and nitrogen atoms, which ring system may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from phenyl, $-OR^{14}$, $-COOR^{14}$, $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$, $-NR^{15}COR^{16}$, $-SONR^{15}R^{16}$, $NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$ or C_1-C_6 alkyl, itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$ and $-OR^{17}$ groups;

R^{10} represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6-alkyl or a phenyl group, the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, $-OR^{17}$ and $-NR^{15}R^{16}$; and

each of R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14} R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17} independently represents a hydrogen atom or a C_1-C_6 alkyl, or a phenyl group.

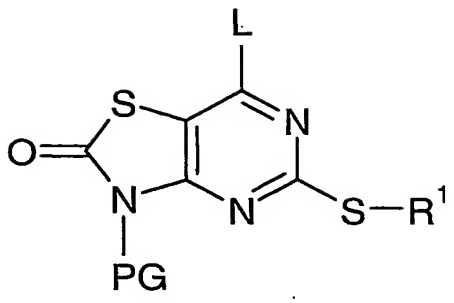
which method comprises contacting



IV

wherein L is a leaving group

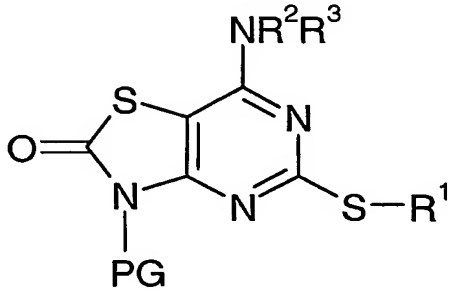
with a thiazole nitrogen protecting group reagent under appropriate reaction conditions to form a compound of the formula



III

wherein PG is a protecting group,

reacting the compound of formula III with an amine of formula HNR^2R^3 to form a compound of formula



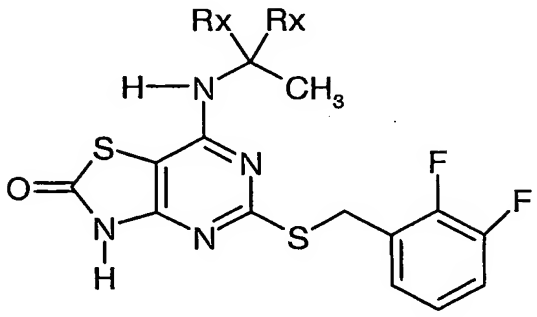
II

and deprotection of the compound of formula II to give a compound of the formula I, and simultaneous or sequential conversion to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 and wherein R^1 represents an optionally substituted benzyl group.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 and wherein one of R^2 or R^3 is hydrogen and the other is C_1-C_8 alkyl substituted by hydroxy and one or more methyl or ethyl groups.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of compounds of the formula Ia

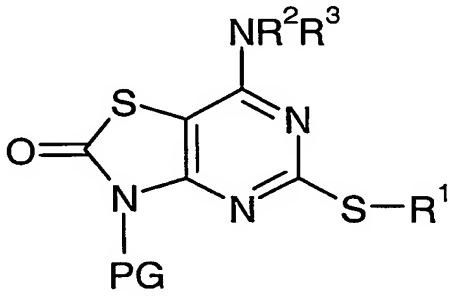


Ia

wherein each R^X is independently selected from hydrogen, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by hydroxy, amino, -O-C_{1-4} alkyl, -S-C_{1-4} alkyl, -N-C_{1-4} alkyl, –$NHSO_2R$, or -$CONR_2$ and provided that both R^X are not hydrogen or amino.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein each R^X is independently selected from hydrogen and hydroxymethyl, provided that both R^X are not hydrogen.

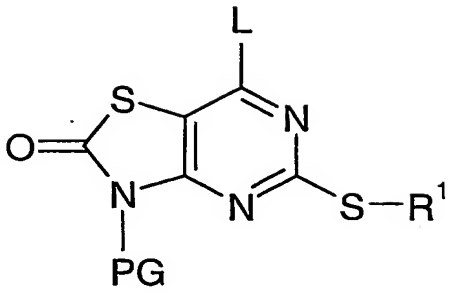
6. A compound of the formula



II

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and wherein PG, R^2, R^3 and R^1 have the meanings stated in claim 1.

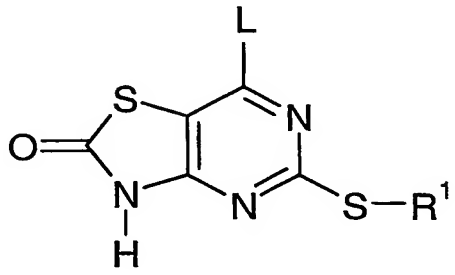
7. A compound of the formula



III

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and wherein PG, L and R^1 have the meanings stated in claim 1.

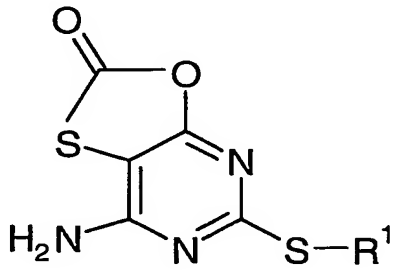
8. A compound of the formula



IV

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and wherein L is a leaving group other than chlorine and R^1 has the meaning stated in claim 1.

9. A compound of the formula



V

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and wherein R^1 has the meaning stated in claim 1.

10. A compound selected from

5-[[(2,3-difluorophenyl)methyl]thio]-7-[[(1R)-2-hydroxy-1-methylethyl]amino]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-2(3H)-one, potassium salt;

5-[[(2,3-difluorophenyl)methyl]thio]-7-[[2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)-1-methylethyl]amino]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-2(3H)-one, sodium salt; and

5-[[(2,3-difluorophenyl)methyl]thio]-7-[[2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)-1-methylethyl]amino]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-2(3H)-one, potassium salt.